

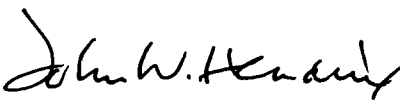
your "no effect" conclusion for listed species and critical habitat, therefore the proposed work does not meet General Conditions 11 and 25 of the Nationwide Permit regulations. As such, the project will require an evaluation and permit decision through the Department of the Army's individual permit application process.

Please provide an individual DA permit application for the High Lonesome Road project. This application should include a Biological Assessment of impacts to threatened and endangered species and formal Section 7 consultation results. The application should also include an environmental assessment of secondary and cumulative impacts related to land uses affected by the proposed project, and, in general, a demonstration of avoidance and minimization of impacts to high quality waters. Technical information should include a geotechnical evaluation of postconstruction slide potential on proposed steep cut slopes and location of any pyritic rock in the project area which may be exposed during construction and, if applicable, proposed hot rock containment and disposal methods and plans to monitor and treat acid runoff.

Due to proximity and similarity of issues and impacts, the Corps recommends that the SR 1363/High Lonesome Road project be joined with the Needmore Road/SR 1114 & SR 1364/TIP Project No. R-4440, for evaluation and resolution of issues. This could be accomplished by allowing the existing Needmore Road Merger Process project team to address both projects concurrently. By copy of this letter, we are notifying Mr. William D. Gilmore, Manager, Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch, of this recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. John Hendrix at telephone (828) 271-7980, extension 7.

Sincerely,


for David Franklin
NCDOT Team Leader

Copy Furnished (w/enclosure):

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